

Message Text

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63
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DRAFTED BY ARA:BR:RWZIMMERMANN:LK
APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS
ARA:HARYAN
S/S:MR. MOFFAT

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O 052147Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 104657

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF SHRIMP VESSELS: DEMARCHE BY AMBASSADOR
CASTRO

1. AMBASSADOR ARAUJO CASTRO CALLED THIS MORNING ON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS REGARDING THE OPERATION OF
SECTION 3(B) OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT AS A RESULT
OF THE BRAZILIAN SEIZURE OF 2 US FLAG SHRIMP VESSELS.

2. AMBASSADOR CASTRO DEMONSTRATED EXTRAORDINARY SENSITI-
VITY TO TWO ASPECTS OF CASE. FIRST HE SAID HE HAD "VERY
STRICT INSTRUCTIONS" TO MAKE CLEAR GOB HAD NOT SOUGHT
WAIVER AND WOULD SHOW NO INTEREST IN EXPEDITING PROCESSING
OF WAIVER. HIS POINT WAS THAT ANY SUCH INTEREST ON PART
GOB COULD PREJUDICE THEIR LOS POSITION. SECONDLY HE
REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO FACT NO FORMAL NOTIFICATION HAD
BEEN GIVEN TO GOB REGARDING SUSPENSION OF MILITARY
ASSISTANCE. SPECIFICALLY HE SAID ORAL REMARKS TO SERGIO
BATH ON US LEGAL IMPLICATIONS COULD HARDLY BE CONSIDERED
"NOTIFICATION".
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3. CASTRO THEN SAID HE CONSIDERED MATTER TO BE EXTREMELY
SERIOUS ("ONE OF MOST UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS IN OUR
RELATIONS"), BOTH IN TERMS GENERAL BRAZILIAN REACTION IF

ISSUE COMES TO ATTENTION OF PRESS AND IN TERMS EFFECT
ON PREVAILING ATMOSPHERE IN OUR RELATIONS.

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS ASSURED CASTRO THAT THERE
WAS NOTHING MACHIAVELLIAN IN OUR PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER
REQUEST. THE NECESSARY STEPS TO COUNTERBALANCE THE US
LEGAL EFFECTS OF THE SEIZURES WERE A UNILATERAL MATTER
AND WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT GOB HAS MADE NO REQUESTS
WHATSOEVER IN THIS REGARD. MR. ROGERS EMPHASIZED THAT
NOTHING HAD HAPPENED IN ANY REAL SENSE NOR WOULD ANYTHING
HAPPEN EXCEPT A BRIEF DELAY IN CERTAIN FMS PROGRAMS;
CERTAINLY US HAD NO INTENTION OF MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATE-
MENT REGARDING SUSPENSION UNDER FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
ACT.

5. WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS SOONEST ON
POSSIBLE REASONS BEHIND THIS STRONG AND RATHER UNEXPECTED
DEMARCHE BY AMBASSADOR CASTRO. KISSINGER

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